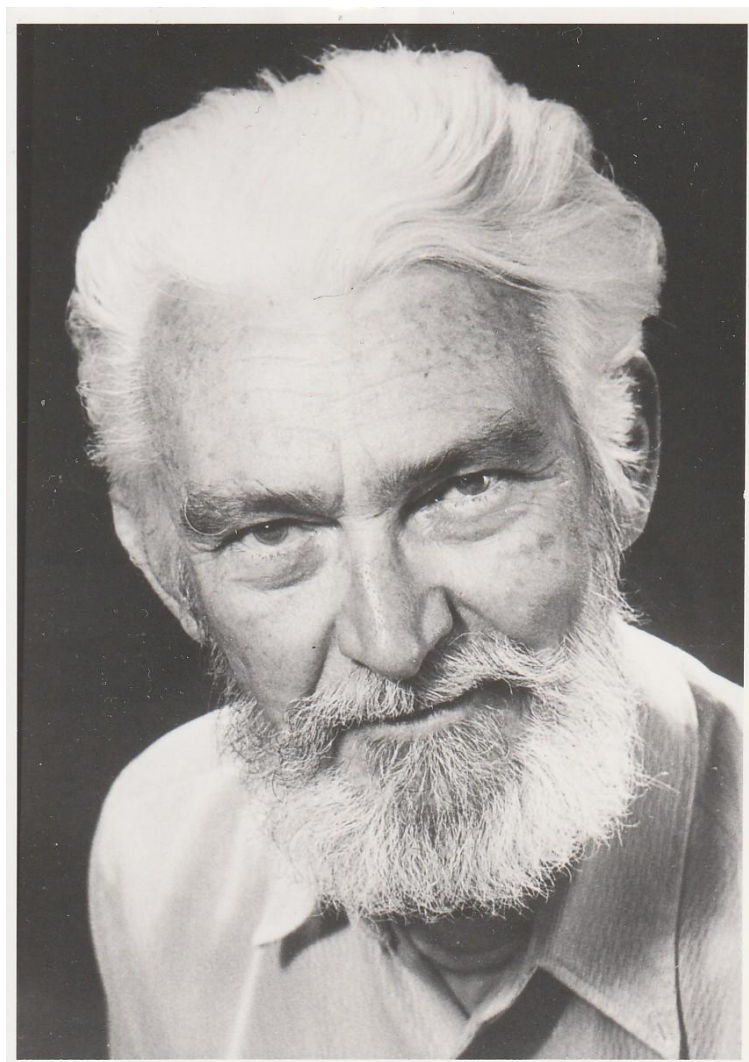


A Guide to the

BILL SCOTT PAPERS



BILL SCOTT

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

William Neville Scott (a.k.a. Bill Scott) was born in Bundaberg, Queensland in 1923. He was educated in Queensland and in 1942 joined the Royal Australian Navy. He served in the waters around Queensland and Papua New Guinea. After returning from World War II, he worked at a number of jobs, e.g. gold prospecting, working in the mines, on the railways and as a seaman in the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service, until an injury required him to change direction to less physical jobs. This saw him as a book salesman in Brisbane in 1953, then in 1957 he joined Jacaranda Press.

His interest in the literary world started with writing poetry during the war, later branching out to writing short stories in the 1950s. He developed an interest in Australian folklore and this resulted in the writing, singing and publication of many folk songs and stories.

By 1974 he had resigned from Jacaranda Press to write full time. This resulted in his first novel, *Boori* published in 1978, followed by its sequel *Darkness under the hills* published in 1981. Both these books won the Children's Book Council of Australia Highly Commended awards in 1979 and 1981, respectively.

Bill Scott was not a prolific writer of children's books as his main interests lay elsewhere, specifically in writing poetry, short stories and folk songs for adults. He was, however, commissioned by Longman Cheshire, in the early 1980s, to write a series of books about Australia and its history. The series was called Reading 360 Australian Content Readers and was designed specifically for primary schoolchildren.

In the next 20 years until his death, he continued to pursue his interests in Australian poetry, songs and short stories, as well as writing the occasional book for children. His love of Australia was reflected in so much of his writing.

Bill Scott died on 22 December 2005 in Warwick, Queensland.

Personal Awards

ACTU Dame Mary Gilmore award for poetry, winner, 1964

Order of Australia – Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his work as a folklorist, 1992

Australian Bush Laureate Awards – Judith Hosier Heritage Award, winner, 2001

Sources:

AustLit

Bill Scott papers

Bill Scott research file, National Centre for Australian Children's Literature Inc

Hazel de Berg collection; National Library of Australia Oral History collection ORAL TRC 1/745.

BILL SCOTT PAPERS

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The donation of these papers by Bill Scott spans the years 1977 to 2002. The size of this collection is three standard archival boxes. The collection is a mix of papers relating to specific books and personal papers.

The collection contains papers relating to four of his books written specifically for children: *Boori* published in 1978, *Darkness under the hills* published in 1980, *The Child & Henry book of bushrangers* published in 1983 and *Shadows among the leaves* published in 1984. The papers consist of manuscripts, proofs, correspondence with publishers (including two rejection letters from publishers for *Boori*), promotional material and reviews. He wrote many short stories but only six are included in this collection.

Bill Scott was an avid letter writer. There is significant correspondence with 30 writers (mainly from Australia, but also from overseas) of books, short stories, poetry and songs. These include well-known authors such as Colin Thiele, Nan Hunt, Barbara Ker Wilson, Patricia Wrightson and Edel Wignell. These letters span 1999-2001. Among the correspondence papers are letters to and from publishers relating to titles not included in this donation.

Bil Scott had a lifelong interest in Australian folklore, and this collection contains many papers relating to this. They include an article he wrote in 1986, papers relating to the Senate Committee of Inquiry into Folklore in Australia in 1986, attendance at folklore conferences in Australia and correspondence with others interested in Australian folklore, including Gillian Bennett from the Folklore Society, UK.

His first two children's novels, *Boori* and its sequel, *Darkness under the hills* both centred around Aboriginal people in pre-settlement days. In 1981 he gave a talk entitled *Some thoughts on the Aborigine as represented in children's literature* at The Aboriginal Motif in Children's Literature national seminar at the University of Tasmania. His talk is included in this collection.

A very personal set of papers is included in this collection. Bill was a member of the Fairmile Association. This was formed by Australian Navy veterans (of whom Bill Scott was one) who all served on any of the 35 Fairmile cruiser ships in World War II. The papers show how important it was to these men to keep their experiences and memories alive.

There are some autobiographical papers but the most in-depth is the transcript of the interview on 11 March 1974 by Hazel de Berg for the Hazel de Berg collection held in the National Library of Australia.

BILL SCOTT
BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WORKS

- Brother and brother / Bill Scott. Milton, Qld: Jacaranda Press, 1972
Milton, Qld: Jacaranda Press, 1974
- Boori / Bill Scott: illustrated by A M Hicks. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1978
Australian Children's Book Council, Book of the Year, Highly Commended, 1979
Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1979
London: Abelard-Schuman Ltd, 1979
- Darkness under the hills / Bill Scott. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1980
Children's Book Council of Australia, Children's Book of the Year, Highly Commended, 1981
- The Victorian bunyip / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1981
- Upon Van Diemen's Land / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1981
- The Blooming Queensland side / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1981
- The Golden west / Bill Scott. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1981
- On the shores of Botany Bay / Bill Scott. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1981
- Bound for South Australia / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1981
- Success / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983
- Mirrors / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983
- Australian childhoods / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983
- Then and now / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983
- Going bush / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983
- The Play's the thing / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983
- From nearby lands / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983

Call of the sea / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983

A Thousand miles away / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983

Big towns, little towns / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983

Ghosts, ghouls and scary things / Bill Scott. Reading 360 Australian Content Readers series. Melbourne: Longman Cheshire, 1983

The Child & Henry book of bushrangers / Bill Scott. Brookvale, NSW: Child & Henry, 1983

Australian bushrangers / Bill Scott. Brookvale, NSW: Child & Henry, 1987

French's Forest, NSW: New Holland, 2000

Shadows among the leaves / Bill Scott. Richmond, Vic: Heinemann, 1984

Following the gold / Bill Scott. Norwood, SA: Omnibus/Puffin Book, 1989

Children's Book Council of Australia, Children's Book of the Year, Younger Readers, shortlisted, 1990

Hey rain: songs and poems (audiocassette) / Bill Scott. Stanthorpe, Qld: Restless Recordings, 1990

Many kinds of magic / Bill Scott. Ringwood, Vic: Viking, 1990

Ringwood, Vic: Puffin, 1991

The Rain of cats / Bill Scott: illustrated by Ron Edwards. Kuranda, Qld: Rams Skull Press, 1992

The Currency lad / Bill Scott. Montville, Qld: Walter McVitty Books, 1994

Pelicans & chihuahuas and other urban legends / Bill Scott: illustrated by Diane Robertson. St Lucia, Qld: Uni of Queensland Press, 1996

The banshee and the bullocky: tales of my Uncle Arch / Bill Scott: illustrated by Ron Edwards. St Lucia, Qld: Uni of Queensland Press, 1996

Opal miner; the songs of Bill Scott (CD) / Bill Scott. Stanthorpe, Qld: Restless Recordings, 1999

Riverbank and township / Bill Scott: illustrated by Ron Edwards. Kuranda, Qld: Rams Skull Press, 1999

Lies, flies and strange big fish: tall tales from the bush / chosen by Bill Scott: illustrated by Craig Smith. St Leonards, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2000

See what I've got / Bill Scott: illustrated by Christina Booth. Wagga Wagga, NSW: Triple D Books, 2001

Hey rain; the Bill Scott songbook / Bill Scott: edited by Penny Davies & Roger Ilott. Stanthorpe, Qld: Restless Music, 2002

BILL SCOTT SERIES AND BOX LIST 2026				
Series No	Series name	Folder	Title	Box No.
1	Books	1.1.1-1.1.6	<i>Boori</i>	1
1	Books	1.2.1-1.2.5	<i>Darkness under the hills</i>	2
1	Books	1.3.1	<i>The Child & Henry book of bushrangers</i>	2
1	Books	1.4.1-1.4.3	<i>Shadows among the leaves</i>	2
2	Short stories	2.1.1	<i>Various stories</i>	2
3	Other papers	3.1.1	<i>Correspondence with publishers</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.2.1	<i>Correspondence with other writers</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.3.1	<i>Correspondence with writer, Alice Holtin</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.4.1	<i>Correspondence on other matters</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.5.1	<i>Folklore</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.6.1	<i>Tutoring at residential school, UNE</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.7.1	<i>The Aboriginal motif in children's literature national seminar, 1981</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.8.1	<i>The Fairmile Association</i>	3
3	Other papers	3.9.1	<i>Autobiographical material</i>	3

A GUIDE TO THE BILL SCOTT PAPERS				
SERIES DESCRIPTION				
SERIES 1 – BOOKS				
Series	Folder	Description & Date Range	Key Contacts	Box
1	1.1.1	<i>Boori</i> Ms, very early draft, typed, handwritten edits, 151pp		1
1	1.1.2	<i>Boori</i> Ms, early draft, typed, handwritten edits, includes author's note & glossary, 1977, vi, 94pp		1
1	1.1.3	<i>Boori</i> Ms, draft, typed, handwritten edits, includes author's note & glossary, 94pp		1
1	1.1.4	<i>Boori</i> Proof, handwritten edits, includes author's note & glossary, 1977, 92pp		1
1	1.1.5	<i>Boori</i> Proof, final, 1977, 148pp Text of items for the dust jacket, 1p		1
1	1.1.6	<i>Boori</i> Rejection correspondence with Mike Page, Rigby Ltd, March – June 1975, 3pp Rejection correspondence with Elizabeth Douglas, Hutchinson Group Australia, September 1975, 2pp Correspondence with Oxford University Press Australia showing the processes & procedures in publishing the book, September 1975-February 1978. Post publication correspondence with Oxford University Press Australia, including launch, film rights, royalties & sales, November 1978-December 1979. Promotional material, includes brochures, flyers & advertisements Reviews, 1978-1979	Mike Page, Publishing Manager, Rigby Limited Elizabeth Douglas, Managing Editor, Hutchinson Group Australia David Cunningham, Manager, Oxford University Press Australia Sarah Brenan, Editor, Oxford University Press Australia	1
1	1.2.1	<i>Darkness under the hills</i> Ms, typed, handwritten edits, 148pp		2
1	1.2.2	<i>Darkness under the hills</i> Ms, typed, includes precis, pronunciation of names list & glossary, 150pp		2
1	1.2.3	<i>Darkness under the hills</i> Proof, handwritten edits & typesetting instructions, includes precis, pronunciation of names list & glossary, 1980, 155pp		2

Series	Folder	Description & Date Range	Key Contacts	Box
1	1.2.4	<i>Darkness under the hills</i> Correspondence with Oxford University Press, December 1979-October 1980	Rosalind Price, Editor, Oxford University Press Australia David Cunningham, General Manager, Oxford University Press Australia	2
1	1.2.5	<i>Darkness under the hills</i> Letters from CBCA about the Book of the Year Highly Commended award & invitation to attend award ceremony, April 1981, 2pp Reviews, 11-25 July 1981 Reviews (USA), 1980-1981 Promotional poster with the CBCA award sticker evident on the cover of the book	Tim Baker, President, Children's Book Council of Australia	2
1	1.3.1	<i>The Child & Henry book of bushrangers</i> Letter from Child & Henry Publishing with details of publishing & payments, 13 April 1982, 1p Ms, typed, includes contents page & letter from author 9 May 1982, 42pp Letter from Weldon Publishing about acquiring the book's contract, 15 April 1992, 1p Correspondence with New Holland about the rights to the book, October-November 1999, 4pp	Margaret Olds, Child & Henry Publishing Pty Ltd Lynn P Bryan, Publisher, Weldon Publishing Averill Chase, Publisher, New Holland	2
1	1.4.1	<i>Shadows among the leaves</i> Ms, early draft, typed, handwritten edits, approx. 45,000 words, 90pp		2
1	1.4.2	<i>Shadows among the leaves</i> Ms, typed, includes dedication & chapter pages, approx. 45,000 words, 149pp		2
1	1.4.3	<i>Shadows among the leaves</i> Letter from Heinemann Publishers returning the original manuscript, 8 July 1985 Ms, original, as sent to publisher includes dedication & chapter pages, approx. 45,000 words, 149pp		2
2	2.1.1	Short stories, various <i>Pragmatic meteorology</i> , typed, 1p <i>Tell me the old, old story</i> , typed 2pp <i>A Little lamb</i> , typed, 2pp <i>Encore graffiti!</i> , typed, 2pp <i>The Crafty barramundi</i> , typed, 2pp <i>A Funny old world</i> , typed, 4pp		2
3	3.1.1	<u>Correspondence with publishers, 1996-2001</u> Correspondence with Nicholas Szentkuti about <i>The Complete book of Australian Folklore</i> , 1996-1997 Correspondence with Roger Cavanagh about recording his songs & arranging a visit to a high school, 1998-2001	Nicholas Szentkuti, Editor, Lansdowne Joanne Mackay, managing Editor, Horwitz Martin	3

		Correspondence with Joanne Mackay about using some of the author's poems in a school textbook, 1999 Correspondence with Oliver Howes about using one of the author's songs in a video, 1999 Correspondence with Quentin Smith about tax matters, 2000 Correspondence with Erica Wagner about future works, 2001 Correspondence with Kay Ronai about future works, 2001	Oliver Howes, Oliver Howes Film Production Quentin Smith, Director, Finance & Administration, John Wiley & Sons Erica Wagner, Editor, Allen & Unwin Kay Ronai, Series Editor, Penguin Australia	
Series	Folder	Description & Date Range	Key Contacts	Box
3	3.2.1	<u>Correspondence with other writers (in alphabetical order by surname), 1999-2001</u> Anne Bell, Jan Brunvand, Gwenda Davey, Zita Denholm, Anne Doyle, Max Fatchen, Jim Haynes, Mark Hertzberg, Nan Hunt, Anne Infante, Graham Jenkin, Barbara Ker Wilson, Ellen Kort, Helen Lunn, Ian Macnamara, Brian Matthews, Meredith McKinney, Bryan Nason, Annie Peterson, Alan Pomeroy, Shane Porteous, David Scott, Noel Sligar, Brad Tate, Colin Thiele, Bill Wannan, Edel Wignell, Bob Wilson & Patricia Wrightson.		3
3	3.3.1	Correspondence with friend & writer, Alice Holtin, USA, 2000-2004		3
3	3.4.1	<u>Correspondence (various), 1991-2001</u> Letter to Elizabeth Bray confirming the donation of manuscripts & other papers being donated to the Canberra CAE Library, 26 June 1989, 1p Correspondence with Alf Mappin about the origins of a story published in <i>Magpies</i>, 1991 Correspondence about the expiry of membership of The Australian Bush Poets Association, Inc, 1997 Letter from Colleen Sutherland about a visit to author, 1998 Letter to Cybele (surname unknown) apologising for not responding to her letter, 2000 Letter to Maree (surname unknown) declining an invitation, 2000 Correspondence with Joy McKean about the ownership of the words to various songs, 2000 Letter applauding an editorial published in a Southern Free Press newspaper, 2000	Elizabeth Bray, Children's Literature Librarian, Canberra College of Advanced Education Alf Mappin, Reviewer, <i>Magpies</i> magazine Joy McKean, Slim Dusty Enterprises Pty Ltd	3

Series	Folder	Description & Date Range	Key Contacts	Box
3	3.4.1 (cont'd)	<u>Correspondence (various), 1991-2001 (cont'd)</u> Invitation for the author to attend a Shakespeare reading at Grin & Tonic Theatre Troupe, Clayfield, Qld, 2001 Correspondence with Peter Williams about the author's book <i>See what I've got</i> being entered by Triple D Books in the CBCA Book of the Year awards, 2001 Request by Rachel Frend for author to sign a book to be given as a prize, 2001 Letter from Peter Beattie requesting the author contribute to a book to be entitled <i>Queensland by Invitation</i>, 2001	Peter Williams, Awards Co-ordinator, Children's Book Council of Australia Rachel Frend, Executive Officer, The Dorothea Mackellar Memorial Society, Inc Peter Beattie, Premier and Minister for Trade, Queensland Government	3
3	3.5.1	Folklore Article entitled <i>Folklore in Australia – some considerations</i> by author, typed, 12 May 1986, 9pp Correspondence with Bob Petchell & Isabel Magrett about definitions of the word 'folk', February 1987, 26pp Correspondence & papers relating to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and Environment Committee of Inquiry into Folklore in Australia, 1986 Correspondence with Keith Hollinshead about the 2nd National Folklore Conference, Lindfield, NSW, 17-19 October 1986 Correspondence with Gillian Bennett about folklore matters, 1999-2000 Correspondence with Bill Hauritz about the Queensland Folk Festival, 2001 Correspondence with Mark Moravec about folklore matters, 2001	Bob Petchell & Isabel Margrett, National Folk Arts Coordinators, Australian Folk Trust Inc Keith Hollinshead, Conference Convenor, 2nd National Folklore Conference Gillian Bennett, Editor, <i>Folklore</i> & member of Folklore Society, UK Bill Hauritz, Executive Director, Queensland Folk Federation Inc Mark Moravec, Secretary, Australian Folklore Association	3
3	3.6.1	'Writing for Young Australians' Residential School, University of New England, 10-20 November 1982 Papers relating to the author's role as a tutor at the residential school		3
3	3.7.1	The Aboriginal Motif in Children's Literature; proceedings of a national seminar, University of Tasmania, 25-27 September 1981 edited by Twila A. J. Herr, 111pp Talk, by the author, at the seminar, entitled <i>Some thoughts on the Aborigine as represented in children's literature</i>, typed, 19pp		3

Series	Folder	Description & Date Range	Key Contacts	Box
3	3.8.1	The Fairmile Association Newspaper article about the fairmile ships in World War II, Sun-Herald 7 May 1995, 1p Correspondence with members of the Fairmile Association, 1994-2002 Article, by the author, entitled <i>The Songs they sang</i>, typed, 4pp Article, by the author, entitled <i>Memories of M.L.108 - 1943</i>, typed, 3pp An article, by the author, entitled <i>The Coxswain and the turkey</i>, in the Fairmile Association newsletter, <i>Dits & Dahs</i>, September 2001 Fairmile Association membership list, June 2001		3
3	3.9.1	Autobiographical material Short autobiography, typed, 12 May 1986, 1p Transcript of author's interview for the De Berg Tapes (tape 745) at the National Library of Australia, 11 March 1974, 19pp		3